



3 Kls

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 September 1988

Dear Mrs. Gorbacheva,

I am asking our Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker, to give you this letter when he visits the Soviet Union next week. I know that he is very much looking forward to learning more about the Soviet education system and hopes very much to see you.

I wanted you to know that I visited RAF Brize Norton today for a ceremony, and found that everyone there - and in particular the children at the local school - all remembered your visit last December with enormous pleasure.

I also wanted to tell you that Denis and I visited the marvellous exhibition of French paintings from Russia which has been held at our National Gallery. It covers the period from Watteau to Matisse and has proved an enormous success. We are very grateful to the Soviet authorities for their help in making the pictures available. They have given great pleasure to very many people here.

We have been following recent developments in your country very closely and are as always impressed by the courage and determination of the General Secretary in pressing ahead with his programme of change and reform.

We hope very much that you will both be able to pay a full official visit to the United Kingdom next year. There is so much more we would like you to see and you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

My husband joins me in sending you both our warm good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

---

Mrs. Raisa Gorbacheva.